

1st Nephi 17

¹ & it came to pass *that we did* again take our journey in the wilderness
& we did travel nearly eastward *from that time* forth
& we did travel & wade through much affliction in the wilderness
& our women bare children in the Wilderness
² & so great was the blessings of the Lord upon us
that while we did live upon raw meat in the *wilderness*
our women did *give plenty* of suck for their Children & were strong
yea even like unto the men
& they began to bare their journeyings ~~wouth~~ without murmuring

³ & thus we see that the *commandments* of God must be fulfilled
& if it so be that the children of men keep the *commandments* of God
he doth nourish them & strengthen them
& provide ways & means whereby they can accomplish the thing
which he hath commanded them
wherefore he did *provide way*^s & means for us
while we did sojourn in the wilderness

⁴ & we did sojourn for the *space of* many years
yea even eight years in the wilderness
⁵ & we did come to the *land* which we called Bountiful
because of its much fruit & also wild honey
& all these *things were* prepared of the Lord that we might not perish
& we beheld the *sea* which we calleed Irreaⁿtum
which being interpreted is many Waters
⁶ & it came to pass that we *did* pitch our tents by the Sea shore
& notwithstanding we had suffered *many afflictions* & much difficulty
yea even so much that we cannot write them all
we was exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the sea shore
& we called the place Bountiful because of its much fruit

⁷ & it came to pass that after I Nephi had been in the land Bountiful
for the space of many days
the voice of the Lord came *unto* me saying
arise & get thee into the mountain
& it came to pass that I arose & *went up* into the mountain
& cried unto the Lord

⁸ & it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me saying
thou shalt construct a ship after the manner which I *shall* shew thee
that I may carry thy People across these waters

⁹ & I sayeth
Lord whither shall I go that I may find oar to moulton
that I may make tools to construct the Ship
after the manner which thou has shewn unto me

¹⁰ & it came to pass that the Lord told me
whither I should go to find ore that I might make tooles

¹¹& it came to pass that
I Nephi did mak^e Bellowses wherewith *to* blow the fire
of the skins of beasts
& after that I had made bellowses
that *I* might have wherewith to ~~blow~~^{blow} the fire
I did smite two stones together *that* I might make fire

¹²~~fo~~ for the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should *make* much fire
as we journied in the wilderness
for hee sayeth
I will make that ~~they~~ thy food shall become sweet
that ye cook it not

¹³& I will also be your light in the wilderness
& I will *prepare* the way before you
if it so *be* that ye shall keep my commandments
wherefore *in as much* as ye shall keep my *commandments*
ye shall be *lead* towards the promised land
& ye shall know that *it* is by me that ye are *lead*

¹⁴yea & the Lord said also *that*
after ye have *ariven* to *the* promised land
ye shall know that I *the* Lord am God
& that I *the* Lord did deliver you from destruction
yea that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem

¹⁵wherefore I Nephi did strive to keep the commandments *of the* Lord
& I did exhort my Brethren to faithfulness & diligence

¹⁶& it came to pass that *I* did make tools of the ore
~~we~~^{hich} I did moulton out of the *rock*

¹⁷& when my Brethren saw that I was about to build a ship
they began to murmur against me saying
our Brother is *a* fool
for he thinketh that he *can* build a ship
yea & he also thinketh that he can cross these great waters

¹⁸& thus *my* Brethren did complain against me
& were desirous that they *might* not labour
for they did not believe that I could build a ship
neither would they believe that I were instructed of the Lord

¹⁹& now it came to pass that I Nephi was exceding sorrowful
becaus of the hardness of their hearts
& now when they saw that *I* began to be sorrowful
they were glad in their hearts
insomuch *that* they *did* rejoice over me saying
we knew ^{that} ye could not construct a ship
for we knew that ye were lacking in judgment
wherefore thou ~~canst~~ *canst* not accomplish *so* great a ~~w~~ work

²⁰ & thou art like unto our father
lead away by the foolish imaginations of his heart
yea he hath lead us *out of the* land of Jerusalem
& we have wandered in the wilderness for these many years
& our women have toiled being big with child
& they have born children *in* the wilderness
& suffered all things save it were death
& it would have been better that they had died
before they came out of Jerusalem
then to have suffered these afflictions
²¹ behold these many years we have suffered in the wilderness
which time we might have enjoined our possessions
& the land of our inheritance
yea & *we* might have been happy

²² & we know that the People which were in the land of Jerusalem
were a righteous People
for they keep the statutes & the ~~judges~~ Judgments of the Lord
& all his commandments according to the law of Moses
wherefore we know that they are a righteous People
& our father hath judged them
& hath lead us away because we would hearken unto his word
yea & our Brother is like unto him
& after this manner of language
did my Brethren murmur & complain against us

²³ & it came to pass that I Nephi spake unto them saying
do ye believe that our fathers which were the Children of Israel
would have been lead away out of the hands of the Egyptians
if they had not hearkened unto the words of the Lord
²⁴ yea do ye suppose that they would have been lead out of bondage
if the Lord had not commanded Moses
that he should lead them out of Bondage
²⁵ now ye know that the children of Israel were in Bondage
& ye know that they were laden with tasks
which were grievous to be borne
wherefore ye know that it must Kneads be a good thing for them
that they should be brought out of Bondage

²⁶ now ye know that Moses was commanded of the Lord to do that great work
& ye know that by his word
the waters of the red sea was divided hither & thither
& they passed through on dry ground
²⁷ but ye know that the Egyptians were drowned in the red sea
which were the armies of Pharouh

²⁸ & ye also know that they were fed with manna in the wilderness

²⁹yea & ye also know that Moses by his word
according to the power of *God* which was in him ~~there~~
smote the rock & there came forth water
that the children of *Israel* might quench their thirst
³⁰& notwithstanding they being lead
the *Lead* their God *their* redeemer going before them
leading them by day & giveing light unto *them* by night
& doing all things for them which was expediant for man to receive
they heardoned their hearts & blinded their minds
& reviled against Moses & g against *the true & liveing* ^{God}
³¹& it came to pass that according to his word he did destroy them
& according to his word he did lead them
& according to his word he *did* do all things for them
& there was not any thing done ~~save~~ save it were by his word

³²& after they had crossed the river Jorden
he did make them mighty unto the *driveing out the* children of the land
yea unto the scattering them to destruction
³³& now do ye *suppose* that the children of this land
which were in the land of promise
which were *driven out* by our fathers
do ye suppose that they were righteous
behold I say unto you nay
³⁴do ye *suppose that* our fathers would have been more choice then *they*
if they had been righteous
I say unto you nay

³⁵behold the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one
he *that* is righteous is favoured of God
but behold this people had rejected every *word of* God
& they were ripe in iniquity
& the *fullness* of the wrath of God was upon them
& the *Lord* did curse the land against them
& bless it unto *our* fathers
yea he did curse it *against* them unto their destruction
& *he* did bless it unto our fathers
unto their *obtaining* power over it

³⁶behold the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited
& he hath created his Children that they should possess it
³⁷& he raiseth *up* a righteous *Nation* & destroyeth the Nations of the wicked

³⁸& he leadeth away the righteous *into* precious lands
& the wicked he destroyeth & curseth the land unto them for their sakes
³⁹*he* ruleth high in the heavens
for it is his throan
& *'his* earth is his footstool

⁴⁰& *he loveth* them which will have him to be their God
behold he loved our *fathrers*
& he *covenanted* with them
ye^a even Abraham & Isaac & Jacob
& he remembered the covenants which *he* had made
wherefore he did bring them out of the land of Egypt
⁴¹& he did *straiten* them in the wilderness with his rod
for they *hardoned* their hearts even *as ye have*
& the Lord *straitened* them because of their iniquity
he sent flying *firey serpants* among *them*
& after they were bitten
he prepared a way that they might be *healed*
& the labour which they had to perform were to look
& because of the *simpleness* of *the way* or the easiness of it
there were many which perished
⁴²& they did *heardon* their hearts from time to time
& they did *revile* against Moses & also against God
nevertheless ye know that they were lead forth
by *his matchless power* into the land of *promise*

⁴³& now after all these things
the time *has come* that they have become *wicked*
yea *nearly* unto ripeness
& I know not but they are at this day about to be *destroid*
for I know that the day must surely *come*
that they must be *destroid* save a few only
which shall be *lead* away into *captivity*
⁴⁴wherefore the Lord *commanded my father*
that he should *depart* into the wilderness

& the Jews also *sought to take away his life*
yea & ye also have *sought to take away his life*
wherefore ye *are murderers in your hearts*
& ye are *like* unto they
⁴⁵ye are *swift* to do *eniquity*
but *slow* to remember the Lord your God
ye have seen an Angel & he *spake* unto you
yea & ye have heard his voice *from time to time*
& he hath spoken unto you *in a still small voice*
but ye were *past feeling* that ye could not feel his words
wherefore he hath spoken unto you *like unto the voice of thunder*
which did cause *the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder*

⁴⁶& ye also know that by the power of his *almighty word*
he can cause the earth that it shall *pass away*
yea & ye know that by his word *he* can cause
that rough places be made *smoth* & smooth places shall be *broken up*
O then why is it that ye can be so hard in your hearts

⁴⁷ behold my soul is ~~rent~~ ~~wi~~ wrent *with* anguish because of you
& my heart is pained
I fear least ye shall be cast off *forever*
behold I am full ~~of~~ ~~with~~ ~~t~~ of the spirit of God
insomuch *as* if my frame had *no* strenght

⁴⁸ & now it came to *pass* that when I had spoken these words
they were angry with *me* & *were* desireous
to throw me into the *debths* of the sea
& as *they* came forth to lay their hands upon me
I spake unto them saying
in the name of the Almighty God I command you that ye touch me not
for I am filled with the power of God
even unto the consumeing of my flesh
& *whoso shall* lay their hands upon me
shall wither even as a ~~dred~~ dried weed
& he shall *be as* nought before the power of God
for God shall smite him

⁴⁹ & it came to *pass* that I Nephi sayeth unto **them**
that they should murmur no more against their father
neither should they withhold *their labour* from me
for God had commanded me that I should build a ship

⁵⁰ & *I* sayeth unto *them*
if God had commanded me *to* do all things
I could do it
if ~~ye~~ he should command me
that I should say unto this water
be thou earth
& it should be earth
& if I should say it
it would *be* done

⁵¹ & now if the Lord hath such great power
& hath wrought so many miricle^s among the children of men
how is it that he cannot instruct me that I should build a ship

⁵² & *it* came to *pass* that I Nephi said many things unto my Brethren
insomuch that they were ~~con~~founded & could not contend against me
neither dearest they lay their hands upon *me* nor touch me with their fingers
even for the space of many days
now they dearest not do *this* least they should wither before me
so powerful was the spirit of God
& thus it had wrought upon them

⁵³ & it came to *pass* that the Lord said unto me
streach forth thine hand *again* unto thy Brethren
& they shall not wither before the^e
but I will shock them saith *the* Lord
⁊ & this will I do that they may know that I am the Lord their God

⁵⁴& it came to pass that I stretched forth my *hand* unto my Brethren
& they did not wither before me but the Lord did shake them
even according to the word which he had spoken

⁵⁵& now they said

we know of a surety that the *Lord is with thee*
for we know that it is the power of the Lord that hath shaken ^{us}~~me~~
& they fell down before me & were about to worship me
but I would not suffer them saying
I am thy Brother yea even thy younger Brother
wherefore worship the Lord thy God
& honour thy father & thy Mother
that thy days may be long in the land
which the Lord thy God shall give thee